

AMENDED CLAIMS

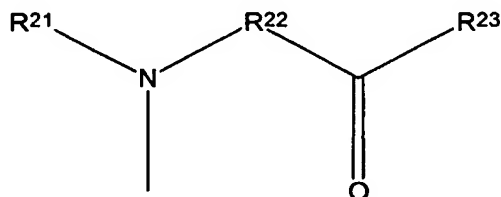
[received by the International Bureau on 28 July 2005 (28.07.2005);
original claim 23 amended; remaining claims unchanged (1 page)]

R^{20} is a linker element selected from an active ester, an isothiocyanate, an acid chloride, an α -halogenated ketone and an azide.

24. A dye compound as claimed in Claim 23, wherein at least one of R^{10} , R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} and R^{15} is alkyl.

25. A dye compound as claimed in Claim 24, wherein one or more pairs of groups R^4 and R^{10} and/or R^5 and R^{11} and/or R^6 and R^{12} and/or R^7 and R^{13} and/or R^8 and R^{14} and/or R^9 and R^{15} is a bridging group consisting of alkylene, O-alkylene, S-alkylene or N-alkylene optionally substituted with one or more of SO_3 , PO_3^{2-} , OH, O-alkyl, SH, S-alkyl, COOH, COO^- , ester, amide, halogen, SO-alkyl, SO_2NH_2 , SO_2NH -alkyl, SO_2N -dialkyl, SO_3 -alkyl, CN, secondary amine or tertiary amine.

26. A dye compound as claimed in any one of Claims 23 to 25, wherein R^{20} is a linker element having the structure:



R^{21} is H or alkyl or aryl optionally substituted with one or more of SO_3^- , PO_3^{2-} , OH, O-alkyl, SH, S-alkyl, COOH, COO^- , ester, amide, halogen, SO-alkyl, SO_2N -dialkyl, CN, secondary amine or tertiary amine and R^{22} is alkylene, O-alkylene, S-alkylene or N-alkylene or R^{21} and R^{22} are part of a ring, optionally substituted with

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In Claim 23, the possibility of R²⁰ being an amine has been deleted.